## US seeking to turn ISIL on Russia

The United States is a "desperate" and "crumbling" imperial power that is using terrorist groups like ISIL to break up its foreign adversaries, with Russia being the next potential target, an analyst in Maine says.

The US government and its allies like Saudi Arabia funded and trained ISIL for many years, said Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space.

The US and its regional allies are using the vicious terrorist organization to target nations like Iraq, Syria, Russia and Iran, Gagnon told Press TV during a phone interview on Monday.

"The United States is a desperate, desperate, crumbling empire, but at this point so dangerous, because in that desperation, it will do anything and attack anyone in order to try to maintain its control," he stated.

"The United States is absolutely a wounded, declining imperial power that cannot be trusted under any circumstances."

"There is even talk of trying to turn ISIS towards Russia one of the next countries that the United States military intends to try to break into pieces so that it would be much easier for the oil corporations to get a hold of Russia's natural gas," the analyst noted. Militants from ISIL, also known as ISIS or IS, were trained by the CIA in Jordan in 2012 to fight the Syrian government.

The militant group now controls large parts of Syria's northern territory and sent its fighters into neighboring Iraq in June, quickly seizing vast expanse of land straddling the border between the two countries.

Gagnon said he is not surprised by the recent report that the US Army is looking for mercenaries to join the battle against ISIL militants in a "range of capacities."

The Pentagon is using security contractors to do the fighting because the American public is opposed to sending US combat troops to fight another war in Iraq and they can do it privately and quietly through mercenaries, Gagnon argued.

## ISIL kills Iraqi kids, uses them as bombers

## The United Nations says ISIL militants in Iraq have killed hundreds of children and used some as bombers.

Leila Zerrougui, the United Nations special representative for children and armed conflict, said on Monday that up to 700 kids have been killed or maimed in Iraq since the beginning of the year.

"ISIL has tasked boys as young as 13 to carry weapons, guard strategic locations or arrest civilians. Other children are used as...bombers," she said.

The ISIL militants have been already wreaking havoc on Syria and Iraq.

The terrorists have been committing heinous crimes including the mass execution of civilians and armed forces in the areas they have under control in the two neighboring countries.

Takfiri terrorists currently control parts of eastern Syria and Iraq's northern and western regions.

They have threatened all communities, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Izadi Kurds and others, as they continue their atrocities in Iraq.

Senior Iraqi officials have blamed Saudi Arabia, Qatar and some Persian Gulf Arab states for the growing terrorism in their country.

The terrorist group has links with Saudi intelligence and is believed to be indirectly supported by the Israeli regime.

## ISIL using US-made Saudi-supplied weapons

The ISIL Takfiri militants, who are wreaking havoc on Iraq and Syria, are using US-made weapons supplied to them through Saudi channels, a new report says.

The study, conducted by the London-based small-arms research organization Conflict Armament Research, documented arms captured by Kurdish forces from militants over a period of 10 days toward the end of July.

According to the investigation, the ISIL militants have been using "significant quantities" of arms including M16 assault rifles marked "property of the US government'.

The weapons were originally given to the so-called moderate anti-government militants in Syria, the study found.

"They (the ISIL militants) are transporting these weapons in batches, and have a solid organizational approach to moving these weapons around," said field investigator Shawn Harris.

The report also found that anti-tank missiles used by militants against the Syrian army were "identical to the M79 rockets transferred by Saudi Arabia to forces operating under the [so-called] Free Syrian Army umbrella in 2013."

The ISIL terrorists, of whom many are foreign militants, currently control parts of eastern Syria and Iraq's northern and western regions, where they have been committing heinous crimes in the captured areas, including the mass execution of civilians and Iraqi security forces.

The ISIL terrorists have threatened all communities, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians and Izadi Kurds, in their advances in the region.

This is while the Western governments have contributed to the rise of the ISIL terrorists by sponsoring the militants fighting against the government in Syria.